

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed action in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

December 10, 2012 to January 8, 2013

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to implement Rule and Amendment 5 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). NMFS is amending the FMP based on several shark stock assessments that were completed from 2009 to 2012. NMFS is proposing measures that would reduce fishing mortality and effort in order to rebuild overfished Atlantic shark species while ensuring that a limited sustainable shark fishery can be maintained consistent with its legal obligations. The proposed measures include changes to commercial quotas and species groups, the creation of several time/area closures, a change to an existing time/area closure, an increase in the recreational minimum size restrictions, and the establishment of recreational reporting for certain species of sharks. The proposed measures could affect U.S. commercial or recreational fishermen who harvest sharks within the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

NAME; John E. Fisher  
DEQ Central Office  
Office of Environmental Impact Review  
629 East Main Street, Room 633  
Richmond, Virginia, 23219;

Phone: (804) 698-4339  
Fax: (804) 698-4319  
E-mail: [john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:john.fisher@deq.virginia.gov)